



**St Joseph's
Outreach
Services**

Shelter | Opportunity | Support

SJOS VOLUNTEERS NEWS | MAY 2022

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

This week is National Volunteer Week and we all need to celebrate volunteering, the backbone of SJOS, a total volunteer organisation. The theme of National Volunteer Week 2022 is “**BETTER TOGETHER**”, and as volunteering brings people **together**, it also builds communities and creates a **better** place for everyone. This week is the chance to celebrate, but unfortunately the ongoing challenges with COVID have limited our opportunity to really “celebrate”! SJOS recognises and appreciates the efforts of each and every SJOS volunteers. We are changing communities for the better, **we are better together**, and the vital work we are doing for the vulnerable is invaluable. **MANY THANKS.**

COVID SAFE PLANS

The COVID Restrictions have been eased, but don't forget to keep up some of the simple precautions. The health and safety of both volunteers and visitors remains a priority for SJOS and to ensure everyone's welfare, we encourage the use of masks, the importance of social distancing and the use of hand sanitisation.

THE SJOS FOOD STORE

The Food Store has been particularly busy over the past 2 months, and visitor attendance numbers have increased by about 20%. We are seeing visitors from further afield, and we are seeing more and more who appear to need emergency food relief. We are doing all we can to supply the items requested and it is hoped everyone understands.

SJOS FOOD STORE PURCHASING

Stocktaking occurs in the Food Store every Monday with the delivery of purchased items later in the week. We are not receiving donations so we are relying on the wholesaler and specials at supermarkets for required products. Lately, we have been challenged by some supply restrictions, especially on a few canned food items and rice. We have not been able to get cans of whole potatoes for many weeks, and white rice is scarce, except for the microwave version. Please be patient and it is hoped that the visitors to the store will still be able to find what they need.

THE SJOS FOOD STORE VOLUNTEERS REDISTRIBUTING THE WEEKEND BREAD.

A big thank you to all the weekend Food Store Volunteers who are now distributing the bread and rolls from the inside freezers into the 2 Way Freezer. The Saturday and Sunday Food Store Volunteers now play a very important role in the SJOS Bread Bank operation and it is so great to see everyone supporting this initiative.

THE SJOS GARDEN

Winter is a slower growing period for produce but the garden volunteers continue their work to ensure the garden is organic while they grow products solely for the Food Store. The harvest over winter is limited but the details will still be written on the white board. While volunteering in the Food Store, please refer to that if you are not sure what is available.

BRING A FRIEND TO SJOS

Over the COVID period, SJOS has lost a lot of volunteers, who for many reasons are now not able to participate in our various outreach services. If you know of someone who may have some extra time, please reach out. Suggest they log into www.sjos.org.au and register, or bring them along with you so that they can also support the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

Please let us know if you need any additional information about your volunteer role at SJOS.

Thank You | Outreach Operations Officer | SJOS Board of Management | info@sjos.org.au